

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-11 and 13-24 are currently pending, Claims 1 and 12 having been canceled by way of the present amendment and Claims 2-11 and 13-24 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

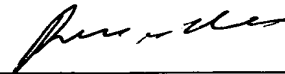
In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1, 3-12, 14-24 were rejected as being anticipated by Vilander et al (WO 99/66748, hereinafter Vilander); and Claims 2 and 13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In the interest of efficiently bringing an end to the prosecution for the present application, Claims 2 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form and Claims 23 and 24 have included the features contained in amended Claim 13. All other claims (except now canceled Claims 1 and 12) have been amended to depend from one of the claims previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments and indication of allowable subject matter, it is believed that the present case is in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable official action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
BDL/rac